

When the people saw him riding a donkey behind a slave their surprise knew no bounds. It was thus that (Hazrat) Omar taught people lessons of equality by his personal example.

STORY 47.

THE IDEAL OF PUBLIC HONESTY IN A MUSLIM RULER.

ONCE (Hazrat) Omar saw a very fat well-fed camel being sold in the Market. He inquired whose camel it was. On being told that it belonged to his own son (Hazrat) Abdullah he said to him: "Abdullah! how did you come by this camel, and how is it that it is so fat?"

(Hazrat) Abdullah replied: "Father, I bought it and let it loose to graze on the Public grazing ground. Now that it has grown fat I am going to dispose it of?"

The sale was concluded. (Hazrat) Omar took the money, gave to his son, the sum he had originally paid for the camel, and sent the balance to the Bait-ul-Mal remarking: "My son! You are entitled to the original price, and as the animal has fed on the grass from the Public park the rest of the money should go to the Public funds".

(Hazrat) Abdullah had nothing to say to this.